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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/594,035

07/16/2007

Nobutaka Okabe

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8784

32294 7590 03/24/2008
SQUIRE, SANDERS & DEMPSEY L.L.P.
8000 TOWERS CRESCENT
14TH FLOOR
TYSONS CORNER, VA 22182-2700

EXAMINER

PLUCINSKI, JAMISUE A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3629

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

03/24/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/594,035	Applicant(s) OKABE ET AL.	
	Examiner JAMISUE A. PLUCINSKI	Art Unit 3629	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 3 and 4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 3 and 4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>20070716, 20060925</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

3. Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Haunschild (US 2004/0139053) in view of Chambers, Jr. et al. (US 2005/0027578).

4. With respect to Claims 3 and 4: Haunschild discloses the use of an apparatus and method for supporting the revision of a checklist for checking soundness of a company in accordance with the revision of laws and ordinances (see abstract) comprising:

- a. A database of laws/ordinances and provisions (Claim 41);
- b. A computer for supporting the checking of laws and ordinances and compiling updated checklist (claim 41);

Art Unit: 3629

- c. A means for connecting a computer to external databases for retrieving updates laws and ordinances (See Paragraph 0051-0085 and 0087);
 - d. When receiving an update the tasks are updates and signals are sent to the departments notifying them of the updates (See Paragraphs 0017 and 0018).
5. Haunschild discloses the use of a web-based system which will generate a revised checklist, however fails to disclose the checklist being saved in a database, and when an update is received, updating the checklist by either modifying the task, deleting a task or adding a task to the checklist in the database. Chambers discloses the use of a first database which stores a checklist (See abstract) and when there is an update to the checklist the stored checklists are updated by modifying, deleting or adding tasks (See Paragraphs 0002, 0024 and 0032). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to store the checklist in a database, and update the checklist when changes are necessary, as disclosed by Chambers and it would have been well within the ordinary skill in the art to update checklist to track changes and to have checklist automatically updated (See Chambers 2 and 3).

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Exall et al. (US 2008/0027746) discloses the use of employment law compliance, Bibko et al. (US 2004/0177326) discloses an Audit and Management system of compliance information, Visser et al. (US 2003/0152991) discloses the use of a Compliance management system, Starnes et al. (US 2002/0194014) discloses the use of a regulatory compliance resource

Art Unit: 3629

database management system, Smalley et al. (US 2002/0188611) discloses the use of managing regulated entities, Frank et al. (US 2002/0143595) discloses the use of compliance management, Barton et al. (US 2002/0059093) discloses the use of a compliance assessment program, Nelson et al. (US 2004/0243391) discloses the use of a multilingual regulation management system, and Sandifer (6,292,806) discloses the use of an equipment regulatory compliance system and Healthcare Financial Management (HFMA article) discloses the use of a healthcare resource regulation center.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JAMISUE A. PLUCINSKI whose telephone number is (571)272-6811. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th (5:30 - 4:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on (571) 272-6812. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3629

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jamisue A. Plucinski/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3629